

DISCUSSION OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 19-22, 24-30 and 32-40 are active in the present application. Claims 1-18, 23 and 31 are canceled claims. Independent Claim 19 is amended herein to include the limitations of previously pending Claims 23 and 31. Claims 20-21, 24-30, 33-34 and 36-38 are presently withdrawn from prosecution. Claims 39-40 are new claims. Support for the new claims is found in the original claims and in the examples.

No new matter is added.

REMARKS

Independent Claim 19 is drawn to a reforming catalyst that includes a carrier containing certain amounts of at least one of lanthanum oxide, cerium oxide, and zirconium oxide and certain amounts of a noble metal component. Applicants submit that the hydrocarbon reforming catalyst now-recited in Claim 19 is novel and not obvious over the art relied on by the Office.

For example, Fujitani (U.S. 4,299,734) does not disclose a hydrocarbon reforming catalyst containing amounts of manganese oxide and alumina in an amount of 72-98.9 of mass%. To the contrary, Fujitani limits the amount of alumina present in the prior art composition. In this regard, Applicants draw the Office's attention to the paragraph bridging columns 2 and 3 of Fujitani where it is disclosed that alumina is present in an amount of 1-5% by weight with respect to certain oxides.

Applicants submit that the Fujitana reference does not disclose or suggest the hydrocarbon reforming catalyst of the present claims and thus the rejection over Fujitana should be withdrawn.

With respect to Qin (US 6,107,239), Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose a composition containing the carrier of the present claims. It is an explicit requirement of present independent Claim 19 that the carrier contains each of the components (a)-(c) recited in Claim 19. Qin discloses a different type of catalyst. Qin does not disclose the carrier of the present claims. In particular, Qin discloses an aluminum oxide carrier (see column 6, line 41-column 7, line 7). The Qin catalyst is made by immersing an aluminum oxide support into a solution containing different materials such as Y- and/or Zr-containing solutions. Qin does not disclose any hydrocarbon reforming catalyst having the carrier of the present claims.

With respect to the rejections in view of Jang ("Catalysis Today", 47 (1999), pp. 103-113), Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose a hydrocarbon reforming catalyst containing a carrier containing components (a)-(c) in combination with a noble metal component (d) as recited in the present claims.

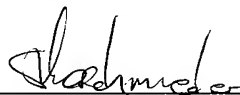
Applicants thus request withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicants draw the Office's attention to the new dependent claims. The new dependent claims further describe the claimed hydrocarbon reforming catalyst. Applicants submit that the subject matter of the new dependent claims is further distinguished from the art of record and respectfully request an indication of allowable subject matter.

For the reasons discussed above in detail, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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